

REMARKS

By the *Office Action* of 30 November 2004, Claims 1-20 are pending in the Application, and all rejected. By the present *Response*, the Applicant submits a certified copy of the Netherlands priority application, with translation and translator's statement.

No new matter is believed introduced by the present *Response*. It is respectfully submitted that the present Application is in condition for allowance for the following reasons.

1. Priority

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the acknowledgement of Applicant's claim of foreign priority, as this application is a continuation of a PCT Application, which itself has priority to a Netherlands patent application.

The Examiner rightly notes that benefit of such priority is not perfected without comports with the submission of the priority document under 35 USC §119(b), which is herein completed.

2. Rejection Of The Claims Under 35 USC § 102

Claims 1 and 19-20 are rejected under 35 USC §102(a) as being anticipated by EP 1130283. EP 1130283 has a publication date that is subsequent to the priority filing date (effective filing date) of the present application, being 16 January 2001, the date of filing of the NL application, which by the present submission is believed to be perfected. As the date of the EP reference is subsequent the effective filing date of the present application, it is believed by submitting the certified copy of the NL priority document, EP 1130283 is now removed as prior art against this application.

3. Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 103

Claims 5-18 are rejected under USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 1130283. As shown above, this reference is now not believed to be prior art to this application, and this ground of rejection thus believed overcome.

Claim 3 are rejected under USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 1130283 in view of US Patent No. 6,110,065 to Yagasaki et al. As shown above, since EP 1130283 is not prior art to this application, this ground of rejection is also believed overcome.

4. Fees

No Claims fees are due, as the total number of Claims, and independent Claims, remains the same as upon original filing.

Further, this *Response* is being filed within three months of the *Office Action*. Thus, it is believed no extension of time fees are due.

Nonetheless, authorization to charge deposit account No. 20-1507 is given herein should fees be due.

CONCLUSION

By the present *Response*, the Application has been in placed in full condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request early and favorable action. Should the Examiner have any further questions or reservations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned Attorney at 404.885.2773.

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RYAN SCHNEIDER
Name of Applicant, Assignee, or
Registered Representative
[Signature]
Signature
24 FEB 2005
Date

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Ryan Schneider
Registration No. 45,083

Troutman Sanders LLP
Bank of America Plaza
600 Peachtree Street, N.E., Suite 5200
Atlanta, Georgia 30308-2216
United States
Phone: 404.885.2773
Fax: 404.962.6849